

Message Text

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53

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EUR-25 IO-12 EB-11 SS-15 L-03 PRS-01

INR-10 RSR-01 RSC-01 /098 W

----- 093855

R 031340 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8731

AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 627

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRN, RH, ZA

SUBJ: RHODESIAN TRANSIT

REF: STATE 59532

1. FOR PAST WEEKS EMBASSY HAS BEEN ATTEMPTING CONFIRM REPORTS SURREPTITIOUS ZAMBIAN IMPORTS VIA RHODESIA, SO FAR WITHOUT SATISFACTORY RESULTS. NUMBER OF SOURCES PERSUADED SUCH TRAFFIC TAKING PLACE BUT THEY VAGUE AT BEST ON QUANTITY AND COMPOSITION, USUALLY RELYING WHOLLY ON SUPPOSITION.
2. EMBOFF MADE PERSONAL OBSERVATION IN LIVINGSTONE LAST WEEK AND WAS TOLD AVERAGE NUMBER OF TRAINS PER DAY CROSSING HAD DECREASED FROM PRE- BORDER CLOSURE TEN TO THREE AT PRESENT. EMBOFF SAW TWO 10-12 - CAR TRAINS COME OVER IN TWENTY- FOUR HOUR PERIOD WITH COKE AND UNIDENTIFIABLE COVERED CARGO WHICH COULD BE MINING EQUIPMENT. OBSERVED NO UNLOADING IN LIVINGSTONE.
3. DROP IN NUMBER OF TRAINS CROSSING AT LIVINGSTONE FROM 10 TO 3 DAILY, IF ACCURATE, SUGGESTS ZAMBIA MAY BE GETTING LITTLE IF ANY OF THE CARGOES, UNLESS ZAIRE- BOUND TRAFFIC BEING SACRIFICED OR SOMEHOW BEING RE- ROUTED. PERHAPS LUBUMBASHI COULD HELP WITH CURRENT RUNDOWN ON TRAFFIC ENTERING SHABA FROM SOUTH.
4. EMBOFF INFORMED KAZUNGULA FERRY NOW IN FULL OPERATION AND
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END RUN POSSIBLE FOR TRUCKS FROM VICTORIA FALLS, RHODESIA, 60 MILES AWAY. HE ALSO TOLD BY ZAMBIA SUGAR OFFICIAL SOME RHODESIAN SUGAR ARRIVING VIA MALAWI.

5. WE INFORMED BY REPRESENTATIVE OF LUSAKA FORWARDING AGENT THAT MINING COMPANIES COULD ARRANGE UNPUBLICIZED SHIPMENTS THROUGH RHODESIA BUT THEY DO NOT WISH ACT UNTIL GRZ PROVIDES AUTHORIZATION IN WRITING WHICH GRZ NOT PREPARED TO.

6. THERE LITTLE DOUBT ABOUT GRZ COMMITMENT TO ALL- OUT EFFORT REROUTE ALL TRADE AWAY FROM RHODESIA. AT SAME TIME, SEEMS PROBABLE TO US THAT, IF ZAMBIANS HAVE NOT ALREADY DONE SO, THEY WILL AUTHORIZE OR STUDIOUSLY IGNORE AT LEAST CRITICAL IMPORTS VIA RHODESIA IN THE EVENT OF WHAT THEY CONSIDER UNSUPPORTABLE COST OR DELAY PROBLEMS ON OTHER ROUTES. QUITE FEASIBLE, FOR EXAMPLE, FOR ZAIRE- BOUND COKE TRAINS TO DROP OFF FEW CARS ON WAY TO SHABA AND PICK UP EMPTIES ON WAY BACK WITHOUT AROUSING MUCH ATTENTION.

7. EMBASSY PURSUING MATTER.
NELSON

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** STADIS

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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